



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson

Customs

Controlling the gateway out of Iraq

By Tech. Sgt. **Pamela Anderson** 332nd AEW Public Affairs

As members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing prepare to head back to their home stations, personnel assigned to Navy Customs, Battalion Papa, Delta Company are responsible for ensuring they don't leave the area of responsibility with anything illegal.

"We inspect all (Department of Defense) personnel and cargo leaving the (Central Command) AOR to support the rapid redeployment of troops," said Navy Photographer's Mate First Class Petty Officer Dawn Montgomery, Customs Operations department head.

The U.S. Navy handles customs for all outgoing personnel, passenger luggage, unit gear and cargo on Balad and Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

As air and space expeditionary force rotation seven and eight heads home, customs is preparing for business to pick up.

"We're expecting to process about 3,000 people in the next five weeks," Petty Officer 1st Class Montgomery said. "But, when there is no surge we average about 200 people a week."

Though that's a lot of people to process, she said that's not the dif-

See Customs, Page 5

Navy Information Systems Technician Second Class Petty Officer Anita Harmon, U.S. Navy Customs Battalion Papa, Delta Company, fills out shipping pre-clearance forms.

New Year's Eve over Balad



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Trip downrange



Page 6

USO show visits Balad



Page 8

W-2s

DFAS center distributing year-end tax statements

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can expect to receive their 2005 tax statements by mail soon, a DFAS official said

In fact, most retirees and annuitants already may have received theirs, with the last hard-copy mailings slated for Dec. 31, the official confirmed.

Mailing of active-duty Army, Navy and Air Force W-2 forms won't begin until Jan. 24, but servicemembers can access their forms on the "myPay" Web site beginning Jan. 21.

W-2 mailings for reservists from the Army, Navy and Air Force began Jan. 4, but the forms will be posted for viewing and printing online by Dec. 31.

Active-duty and Reserve Marines can check their mailboxes after Thursday or access their myPay accounts beginning Tuesday.

Mailing for Department of Defense civilians' W-2s will begin

Tuesday, and the forms will be posted on myPay beginning Monday.

An increasingly large percentage of the almost 6 million people the finance agency serves now receive their pay and tax statements electronically through myPay, the official said. By doing so, customers get their statements quicker and more securely, said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' Military and Civilian Pay Services.

A state-of-the-art encryption technology incorporated into the myPay system, which users access through a personal identification number, safeguards personal information that's more vulnerable to theft when transmitted by mail, the official said.

Clients of DFAS who have never set up their myPay accounts or have forgotten their PIN numbers can set up or get new ones through the myPay Web site, he said.

To view or print a W-2 after the listed dates visit the myPay Web site at www.dod.mil/dfas/

(*Editors note: Military members who have deployed during* 2005 should carefully review their W-2s to ensure all entitlements are reflected on it.)

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program.

The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention.

The Red Tail Flyer will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns. The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil.

Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, says farewell to Marine Gen. Peter Pace, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the Balad Air Base flightline.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc Wing Commander Editorial Staff Maj. Robert Couse-Baker Public Affairs Chief Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson Public Affairs NCOIC Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore Red Tail Flyer Editor Senior Airman Bryan Franks Web Administrator The Red Tail Flyer is published by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office.

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http://www.afnews.af.mil/irag/baladarchive/current.pdf



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

The Cyber Café offers Airmen and Soldiers access to 20 computers with high speed Internet connections and 20 phonelines.

Cyber Café open

332nd ESVS offers tools to stay in touch with home

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore** 332nd AEW Public Affairs

Staying in touch with friends and family has become easier for Air Force members since the H-6 Cyber Café opened in December.

Serving more than 7,500 people a week, the café has 20 high-speed Internet computers and 20 telephones available 24 hours a day, so deployed members can better stay connected with home.

The desire to build a Cyber Café in H6 has existed for some time, but the idea was rejected during the last two rotations, said Lt. Col. John Williams, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander.

Shortly after Colonel Williams arrived at Balad, he addressed the issue again and presented statistics of computer use at the H6 recreation tent, backing the need for a cyber center.

To get the tools needed to operate the café, Colonel Williams worked with the Army Mayor's cell to identify an Army unit leaving Logistics Support Area Anaconda and arranged to take ownership of their computer equipment.

"It was our goal to get the Cyber Café open before the holidays," the colonel said. "The process took 36 days from the start of the construction until we opened the doors for business. The contractors finished the building on a Monday and the cafe was opened Thursday through the

teamwork of civil engineering, communications and services Airmen."

There is normally about a five or 10 minute wait to use the equipment, Colonel Williams said. "We have set up a television waiting area where DVDs are played and magazines are available."

The Cyber Café computers can be used for 30 minutes at a time and phone use is limited to 15 minutes.

The new facility allowed computers to be moved from the noisy recreation tent to a calmer atmosphere. In addition, the café offers faster connections and access to some sites blocked by the base's server due to the bandwidth restrictions.

These are some of the features that brings Airmen like Tech. Sgt. Barbara Young, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief assistant into the center.

"I think the best feature of the Café is the location," Sergeant Young said. "It is close and convenient to where I live. If I want to send an e-mail on my day off, I don't have to go all the way to the office to do it. I can just walk a few yards to the Café. Having a cyber center here is a great convenience for people who work away from H6 and don't have a car or can't walk to their office to get on a computer."

Despite the newness of the Cyber Café, members of the 332nd ESVS have already made a few upgrades such as installation of three web cameras.

BALAD AIR BASE News Notes

H6 Rec. Tent events

The following events are scheduled to be held at the H6 Recreation Tent: country dance today at 8 p.m; Salsa dance class Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m.; Jeopardy contest Tuesday at 7 p.m.; a jazz and poetry night Jan. 13 at 8 p.m. in Panther Pavilion Theater and a NBA Live 06 tournament Jan. 22 at 8 p.m.

Armed Forces show

Country music singer Carly Goodwin is scheduled to preform at the Sustainer Theater Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Testing office limitations

There will be no CLEP, DANTES or Excelsior credit-by-examination testing conducted Jan. 16 through 20 due to the test control officer's mandatory change over inventory. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Susan McCarter at 443-6953 or send an e-mail to susan.mccarter@blab.centaf.af.mil.

Safety awards

Congratulations to the December Redtail Safety Award winners: 46th **Expeditionary Reconnaissance** Squadron: Staff Sgt. Kimberly Farrell and Capt. Jesse Winters; 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron: Tech Sgt. Brian Lidyard; 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron: Staff Sgt. Jaime Faison; and 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron: Airman 1st Class Mark Baugh, Staff Sgt. Victor Sgt. Joshua Carrera. Staff Clodfelter, Master Sgt. David Durako, Staff Sgt. Mario Esquibel, Senior Airman Ian Gingrow, Tech. Sgt. David Henderson, Airman 1st Class Matthew Marcello, Staff Sgt. Parmenter. Staff Johnathan Pierce, Senior Airman Sabrina Robinson and Staff Sgt. Brett Sorenson.



Courtesy photo

Airmen with the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group, Detachment 5 help unload equipment from a C-5 Galaxy. The 721st AMOG is attached to Balad Air Base from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

DET. 5 SUPPLIES BALAD

721ST AMOG AIRMEN SUPPORT OIF CARGO AIRCRAFT MISSION

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore** 332nd AEW Public Affairs

Airmen deployed to the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group, Detachment 5, have traveled thousands of miles to help the Air Force enable the global aspect of "Global vigilance, reach and power."

Though the 721st AMOG does not have any aircraft assigned, the 35 Airmen who work there are responsible for the maintenance, launch and recovery of all strategic Air Mobility Command C-5 and C-17 aircraft transitioning through Balad Air Base.

"Our reason for being here is to provide maintenance support for strategic airlift at Balad," said Capt. Ken King, 721st AMOG detachment commander. "The aircraft that we provide support to transport everything from bullets to blankets into the theater. Everything the war fighter needs comes through this detachment."

Attached here from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, the detachment receives all military cargo planes landing at Balad that are not assigned here. The 721st AMOG Airmen work alongside the aircraft's crew chiefs to ensure as quick a turn around as possible.

"We want the transient aircraft landing on our airfield to be here for as short a period of time as possible," said Master Sgt. Roland Ireland, 721st AMOG production supervisor and detachment first sergeant. "It is our goal to turn around these aircraft in 30 minutes to four hours, depending on maintenance needed. The planes will not remain here overnight, unless they are broken."

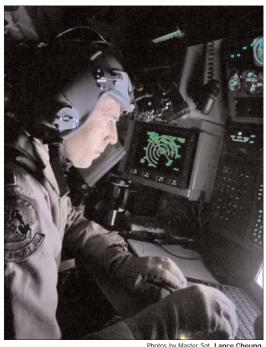
In a typical day, the detachment Airmen service and launch about a dozen transient aircraft. Over the last six months, they have been busy servicing more than 1,300 C-17 and C-5 cargo aircraft moving approximately 27,000 tons of cargo. In this feat, the Airmen have achieved a maintenance departure reliability rate of 99 percent.

In addition to assisting in the movement of cargo into the Iraqi theater, the aircraft serviced by the unit have transported almost 60,000 passengers, of which more than 1,800 were medical evacuations.

"We take great pride in knowing that several of the C-17 sorties we launch from here every week are transporting our wounded heroes out of harm's way and into a safer place for them to receive the medical treatment they need," Captain King said.

The Det. 5 Airmen also take pride in knowing that their job helps save lives in other ways, too. Every C-17 and C-5 that comes through Balad means one less convoy required in Iraq.

"We are decreasing the number of convoys that need to travel when C-17s are able to perform air drops; getting parts and supplies where they are needed," Sergeant Ireland said. Additionally, planes continuing on from Balad have provided humanitarian support to the Pakistani people affected by the October earthquake and conducted a blanket drop in Afghanistan.



Maj. Eric Heftye, 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron navigator, keeps his C-130 Hercules on course during a New Year's Eve mission to Balad Air Base.



New Year's Eve over Iraq

In the shadows of their C-130 Hercules' flight deck, (left to right) pilot Maj. Mike Wilson, flight engineer Senior Master Sgt. Ernie Leyba and co-pilot Capt. Tim Pemberton approach for a landing at Balad Air Base. The crew flew a New Year's Eve mission to deliver 13 passengers and 13,000 pounds of cargo. Colorado Air National Guard's 731st Airlift Squadron crew is ending a Southwest Asia tour with the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

Customs, from Page 1 —

ficult part of her job.

"The hardest part of this job is keeping up with the changes in regulations," Petty Officer 1st Class Montgomery said. "We follow General Order number one, U.S. Customs, Transportation Security Administration policies and Department of Agriculture regulations and CENTCOM policies."

Though changes occur on a regular basis, she said there aren't many people who try to take illegal items out of the country.

"A lot of people are compliant, and the ones who aren't, it's usually because they've simply forgotten," Petty Officer 1st Class Montgomery said, referring to the Soldiers and Airmen passing through who spend most of their time in the field with rounds stuffed almost everywhere on their person.

"We usually catch things like that," she said.

The need to find things before the flight takes off does more than just protect the passengers on the aircraft.

"We need to make sure that nothing gets home that shouldn't," said Navy Information Systems Technician Second Class Petty Officer Anita Harmon, USN Customs Battalion Papa, Delta Company customs border clearing agent. "From an agriculture perspective, we keep sand and dirt out that may carry mites or something like that."

It's also important to keep weapons from being taken out of Iraq because those weapons end up being sold on the streets, she said.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Harmon is one of the agents who goes to units throughout Balad Air Base and LSA Anaconda and inspects squadron and unit cargo before it's shipped out of here.

"We label it so it doesn't have to be reinspected when it gets back to the states," she said. "Though 10 percent will get rechecked when it gets to its destination, this helps the process go

Customs Tips

To ensure personnel process out of the area of responsibility quicker, here is a list of restricted and limited items:

- Articles originating from embargoed countries such as North Korea, Cambodia, Iran, Libya and Cuba.
- Copyright violations unauthorized copies or those that falsely imply they are copyrighted in the U.S. are restricted to one item per title.
- Obscene and pornographic articles, books, pictures, films, communications, videotapes or movies.
- ♦ Over-the-counter medication must be able be positively identifiable by custom agents as non-prescription pills.
- ◆ Prescription drugs must be in their original labeled container and not loose. Prescription drugs should be hand carried.
- ◆ Soil, earth and sand can not be taken outside of Iraq; however, clean rocks and shells are ok.
- ♦ War Souvenirs must have written approval from a reviewing official.

RED TAIL FLYER



Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, examines an F-16 Joint Direct Attack Munition GBU-38 as Lt. Col. Andrew Larson, 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, looks on during a visit to Balad Air Base



(Above) Lt. Gen. Stephen Lorenz, commander, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., signs a guest book at 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group Jan. 2.

(Right) Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray talks with Staff Sgt. Jinnie Lettkeman, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group.





(Above) Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces Command Chief, talks to Capt. Audrey Rampone and Lt. Col. Lynne Hull. Captain Rampone is assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Colonel Hull is assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

Racquetball

Working out, releasing stress

By Senior Airman Bryan Franks 332nd AEW Public Affairs

There are many ways for Airmen to get fit while deployed ranging from basketball to weightlifting.

One option many don't know about is racquetball. Racquetball may seem similar to tennis, however, the racquet and rubber ball that are used are smaller. Like tennis, the game can be played in singles or doubles matches. Racquetball courts are enclosed rectangular boxes generally with one door.

This game combines speed, power, agility and hand-eye coordination.

"It is a great way to relieve stress from the office, because there are time you can hit the ball as hard as you can," said Master Sgt. Gilberto Perez, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing weapons safety office.

When playing racquetball, the ball can be played off any surface including the ceiling, however it can only bounce on the floor once before it is hit. If it bounces more than once the opponent wins the point.

"Because you are playing off the walls knowing where the ball will rebound is key," Sergeant Perez said. "It's a lot like playing pool: the longer you play, the better you become at anticipating where the balls will bank off the bumpers. This strategy applies to racquetball as well."

"I like playing singles matches," Sergeant Perez said. "It's just me against the opponent and it's a great workout."

The racquetball court here is located at the east main gym near

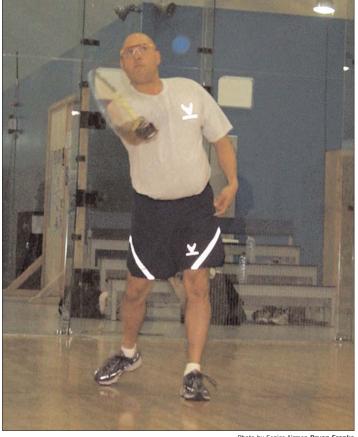
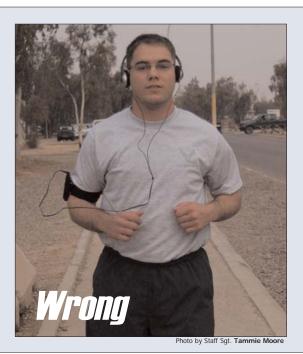


Photo by Senior Airman Bryan Franks

Master Sgt. Gilberto Perez, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, follows through with a racquetball swing. There is a racquetball court located at the east main gym.

the Sustainer movie theater. There's only one court and players must bring an extra pair of shoes to help protect the hardwood floor.



Running with headphones on

Recently a number of individuals have been seen running outside of the H6 perimeter with headphones on.

The wear of headphones outside of housing areas is not authorized.

According to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2930, Dress and Personal Appearance of Military Personnel, headphones may be worn in the official physical training uniform when inside the clearly defined confines of housing areas and away from areas of frequent vehicle traffic.

Headphones are prohibited unless required to perform military duties when outside the confines of housing areas. However, headphones are authorized for use while running on the base track. In addition, they can be used as an accessory to a computer when they are worn to prevent inconvenience to others in the area.

Air Force members can not wear headphones outside of the confines of the housing areas unless on the base track.

Singer Diana DeGarmo, performs for service members at the Sustainer Theater during a United Service Organizations show at Balad Air Base and Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

USO tour: Chairman brings *stars to Iraq*



(Above) Marine Gen. Peter Pace, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, greets service members.

(Top left) Country music star Michael Peterson, plays his guitar at the Sustainer Theater Jan. 1.



(Ret.) Army Col. Jack Jacobs, a Medal of Honor recipient, reminisced with service members about his military experiences.

Maintaining mission focus

By Lt. Col. Craig Greenwood 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander

As we approach the completion of AEF 7/8, I am sure that many people are getting excited about returning home. It is important to remember that many folks will continue to work here because they are not tied to the traditional AEF cycle. Many people will remain at Balad for six months and others for a year.

To the AEF folks, the rotation presents an opportunity for us to hand over one of the most important missions in the Central Command area of responsibility to the next generation of Tuskegee Airmen.

The operations, maintenance, support and medical communities have worked in harmony to consistently provide superior combat power across the spectrum of modern air and space warfare. Our mission success has helped ensure regional stability and enables the nation of Iraq to progress toward democracy. Every individual makes up a piece of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing mission. Our commitment must be to remain focused on the mission and not allow any degradation during the rotation.

There are three things we can all do to make this transition go well: focus on the mission, reflect on accomplishments

and prepare the next generation for success.

Take time to reflect on your tour.

There have been tremendous accomplishments during AEF 7/8. The men and women of the 332nd AEW have operated, maintained and improved the capability to generate combat power. Through vision and teamwork we advanced the legacy passed on to us that strives to improve how the mission is done.

We have achieved significant milestones. To name a few, we have welcomed and bedded down a detachment of C-130s, removed and replaced the aging Air Force Theater Hospital tents, expanded the aircraft ramps to accommodate more strategic and tactical airlift and made numerous improvements in our quality of work areas.

Think back to when you arrived at Balad. Recall your first impressions and the introduction to your new job. Was it good? Did you get a good turn-over from the person you replaced? If the answer is yes, then do the same for the person replacing you. If you think it could have been done better ... do it better!

Make a commitment to prepare the next AEF cycle for success. The AEF rotation is accomplished one Airman at a time. It happens each time one person successfully hands over their piece of the mission to the "new guy." It starts with completing the goals and projects we set for ourselves at the beginning of the rotation. For those projects that are not completed, provide well organized details so our replacements can follow through without undue loss of time or sense of

Most work sections maintain continuity books. Continuity books should be updated with the most current status and information. Make it simple and easy to understand. The book should provide the answers to questions your replacements will have ... long after you have departed and they cannot recall what you said.

Whether your changeover takes one day or five, the objective is to provide the critical information that is needed to accomplish your piece of the mission. As a final preparation, you should ensure your work areas are ready to receive new occupants and that unnecessary clutter is removed. A positive attitude towards ensuring your replacement is settled in both physically and mentally will make the transition even better.

With continued focus, a little reflection and solid preparation for the changeover, you can leave Balad with the confidence that the Tuskegee tradition of performing beyond expectations will carry on.



Small, conservative color key chain micro-lights may be worn on the top left buttonhole of the desert camouflage uniform shirt, the zipper of the flight suit, the zipper of the physical training uniform warm-up jacket and on body armor. For additional guidelines on micro-light wear, see 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903 [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards section two.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Sundays

9:30 a.m. - Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. - Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. - Tuskegee Chapel Protestant - Gospel

Sundays

11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 - Freedom

Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays 9:30 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 6:30 p.m. -

Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN

Sundays and Wednesdays 7 p.m. - Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays

10 a.m. - 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. - Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

1p.m. - Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. - Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

7:30 a.m. - Hospital, 8 a.m. - Provider Chapel Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. - Provider Chapel Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays through Fridays

7 p.m. - Tuskegee Chapel

Saturdays

5 p.m. - Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation) Sundays

8:30 a.m. - Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. - Tuskegee

Chapel, 11 a.m. - Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. - "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

2 p.m. - Tuskegee Chapel

Islamic Praver Fridays

1:30 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. - Provider Chapel Annex

Know what this is?

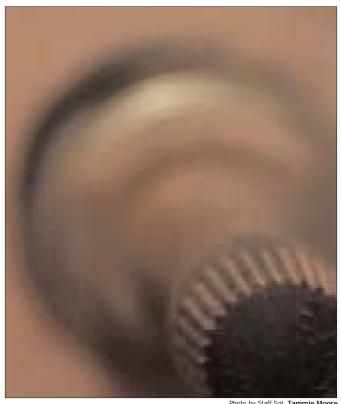


Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Last week's photo was first identified by Special Agent Wayne Pugh, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and Maj. Aaron Lade, 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, as a tire stud.



Silent Heroes

Airman 1st Class Benjamin Peymann, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, is this week's "Silent Hero." Airmen Peymann is a force protection escort assigned to the Wing Headquarters Building. Working there he remained cheerful and helpful to the Wing staff as they assisted with distinguished visitors and special events, said Command Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief.

Sustainer movie schedul



Schedule is subject to change

Today

3 p.m. - North Country

6 p.m. - Doom

9 p.m. - Fun with Dick and Jane

(Premiere showing)

Midnight - Fun with Dick and

Jane

Saturday, Jan. 7

3 p.m. - The Fog

6 p.m. - Fun with Dick and Jane

9 p.m. - Doom

Sunday, Jan. 8

3 p.m. - Fun with Dick and Jane

6 p.m. - Doom 9 p.m. - The Fog

Monday, Jan. 9

3 p.m. - Doom

6 p.m. - Fun with Dick and Jane

9 p.m. - The Fog

Tuesday, Jan. 10

3 p.m. - Elizabethtown 6 p.m. - In Her Shoes

9 p.m. - Fun with Dick and

Jane

Wednesday, Jan. 11

3 p.m. - North Country

8 p.m. - Armed Forces show

performance by Carly Goodwin

Thursday, Jan. 12

3 p.m. - Fun with Dick and Jane

6 p.m. - The Fog 9 p.m. - The Gospel

